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BERLIN NIGHT CLUB FIRE HORROR

Britain's Fuel Crisis Attlee To Make Full Statement

London, Feb. 9.
The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, will make a comprehensive statement to the House of Commons to-morrow on the great electricity switch-off beginning at midnight.

It is expected that he will deal with the sharply unfavourable criticisms of the Government's plan to save a week's coal stocks lost through the bitter weather. Before Mr. Attlee speaks, it is expected that a full Cabinet meeting will be held to hear the latest reports from Ministers involved on the progress of the scheme to cut off current from non-essential industry and domestic users in the mornings and afternoons.

There is little doubt that there will be a debate in the next day or two, in which severe criticism will be made on the way the Government, and particularly the Minister of Fuel, Mr. Emmanuel Shinwell, has handled the situation.

Sir John Dalton, wartime Regional Fuel Controller for London and south-east England, described the scheme as "technically unworkable."

Throughout to-day Ministers connected in any way with coal and electricity held consultations, at which they discussed criticisms. Mr. Shinwell was at his desk from early morning until late in the evening.

Here are the latest reports from the various parts of Britain on the effect of the weather and the coming switch-off:

Merseyside: At least 22,000 people will be affected by the partial shut-down in industry.

Cambridge: The Pyc Radio Company is closing down for the first time since its founding 18 years ago and is giving notice to 2,500 workers.

The General Manager of the Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Company said tonight that the cut would enable his company, which covers 4,000 square miles, to save 1,000 tons of coal daily.

Temperatures were rising in London and south-east England after a night in which up to 10 centimetres of snow fell in the capital. The slight thaw may spread north, but the Air Ministry forecasts continued cold weather to-morrow and fears are growing that a rapid thaw might cause an unprecedented flooding in parts of the country where snow is very deep.

LONDON SNOW PLOUGHS
Snowploughs were used for the first time in living memory in the business and newspaper areas of London to-day. The Westminster Council has appealed for 500 men thrown out of work by snow or fuel cuts to clear drifts from its 100 miles.

Schools were out in central London and dogs and cats which ventured outside disappeared in drifts. Many railway yards were blocked by last night's fall, particularly in Wales, where snow is blowing off the mountains in cuttings. One of the main lines to Scotland is blocked by snowdrifts and is expected to remain so for two days.

Dense fog followed sunshine and thaw in the Straits of Dover this afternoon.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

A Word Misused By Many

THE loose application of catchwords, particularly by the protagonists of political cults and by others whose jealousies and prejudices are rooted in ignorance, has been often deplored by educationists. An oft-heard example is "imperialism" as it is applied to Britain and the British race generally. At this late date it has been left to an American commentator in the New York Herald-Tribune to say: "The most absurd misuse of language currently heard in political argument is the description of the British as imperialists." The paper goes on to say that British Government officials are "winning admiration by making gifts of freedom to great segments of their Empire" and making these gifts with "great speed and generosity than the circumstances would require." The simple and direct conclusion stated, will make good reading for the much-maligned and over-worked World's Policeman.

Examples of the moment are Egypt, India, Burma and Malaya, all on the way to self-government and, let us hope, democracy, founded on things taught by British teachers, scientists, and officials who have devoted their lives to the service of the Empire. Their greatest problem, apart from protecting backward peoples from their neighbours and themselves, has been to teach them how to become capable of self-government. To this end the work of the Government has been to permit the growth of democratic principles to the tribes of the British West African colonies. It would not have raised up a self-governing Union of South Africa under a Boer general's leadership immediately after the Boer War. Nor would it have made the latest pact with Burma, immediately after winning back that country at such bitter cost.

It can be said for most of Britain's detractors that they speak from ignorance; they, too, have a lot to learn about the workings of democracy. But history, written by democratic recorders of the future, will tell how patiently, self-sacrificingly and well the British went about building an Empire into a Commonwealth of free peoples.

Rocket Tests In Canada

Vancouver, British Columbia, Feb. 9.
In a copy-righted story, the Vancouver Sun reporter, Pierre Burton, said to-day that experimental crews of the Royal Navy fleet air arm and Canadian Navy, were testing rocket and jet planes and weapons in 70 degrees below zero temperatures at Fort Nelson, British Columbia.

Burton reported that 30 officers and ratings of the British fleet air arm, with an unspecified number of men from the Canadian aircraft carrier "Warrior", are testing British jet fighters, Seafires, Spitfires and Hurricanes. The Sun article said the tests also included firing rocket guns, cannons and machine-guns. The article added that it was so cold that the motors of the jet fighters froze.—United Press.

SIGNING OF TREATIES

Ceremony To-day

Paris, Feb. 9.
Just six years and nine months after Italy's entry into the war and three years and five months after her unconditional surrender, representatives of Italy and four minor satellites of Nazi Germany to-morrow will in Paris sign the peace treaties that formally mark for them the end of World War II.

They will sign without an opportunity to protest the treaties, which strip them of most of their armed forces, impose more or less serious territorial losses and saddle them with crushing economic burdens for years to come.

The only protest was expected to come from Yugo-Slavia, which is bitterly angry at its failure to get Trieste and Venezia-Giulia from Italy and almost certainly will refuse to sign the Italian treaty.

DECISION AT 11 A.M.

Yugo-Slavia's final decision probably would not be made known until 11 a.m. to-morrow when the Italian treaty will be signed in the historic "Gallery of Peace" at the Quirinal Palace. It was expected, however, that the Yugo-Slav Foreign Minister, Stanjko Simich, would make a formal statement protesting once again the terms against which Yugo-Slavia's representatives had fought a tenacious but losing battle for 18 months, and then would refuse to sign.

In that eventuality, Yugo-Slavia still would ally itself tactically at war with Italy, Allied troops would continue to occupy Trieste and the so-called Morgan line in Venezia-Giulia and Yugo-Slavia would obtain no territorial gains or reparations, part of the surrendered Italian fleet and other treaty benefits from Italy. The uneasy status quo which has kept that corner of Europe in a state of ferment for 21 months would drag on indefinitely into the future.—United Press.

ENVOY ON HOLIDAY

Canberra, Feb. 10.
United States Ambassador and Mrs. Robert Butler left by plane for a week in Manila.—Associated Press.

At Least 40 Believed Burned To Death

BRITISH SOLDIERS VICTIMS

Berlin, Feb. 9.

An official police communique to-night said 20 bodies had been removed from the fire-swept Berlin night club in the British sector "where it is estimated more than 40 persons were burned to death."

Dr Ewald Lobbin, supervisor at Spandau Hospital, earlier had said, "At least 21 persons died. I believe it will be a great deal more." Firemen and policemen at the scene expressed fear also that the death toll would be very high. Firemen were still digging in the smouldering debris for bodies.

The British authorities reported that seven soldiers were missing. A British dentist was sent to the scene to examine the teeth of the charred victims.

At least five British soldiers were given hospital treatment. Most of the dead and injured were believed to have been Germans.

The night club was the Cafe Loebe, located on the edge of woods on the outskirts of Berlin. Between 500 and 600 persons were jammed into the snow-covered stucco building, attending a costume ball, when the fire broke out.

A "MAD PANIC"
A British driver, Harry Roberts, who was in the club, described the scene as "mad panic" when flames burst through the ceiling.

"I was dancing when I saw them," he said. "The flames spread across the roof as though someone had thrown benzine on it."

He said everyone raced for the exits. A table blocking a doorway caused a terrific jam. He said he jumped on the table and literally dived out of the door over the heads of the mob.

Reginald Dunne, British ambulance driver, said that when he arrived at the club, it was in flames.

"I saw British soldiers standing inside the building, throwing Germans through windows who were either too dazed or injured to flee themselves," he stated.

The German police president, Paul Markgraf, said after an inspection of the burned, ice-covered ruins, that he was "horror-stricken." He said he saw "stacks of burned bodies" clogging doorways where they had died while attempting to escape.

There was a continuous stream of weeping relatives and friends at Spandau Hospital seeking missing kinsfolk.

WHAT NEWSMAN SAW

British Army medical officers said they found the burned bodies of six British soldiers in the ruins.

United Press staff correspondent Robert Haeger said he saw German workers lift six caskets with bodies or parts of bodies and take them away on a truck. He said they were in the process of filling 12 more coffins.

"The bodies were burned so badly the men just filled the coffins with whatever parts they could find," Haeger said. "I counted enough parts of bodies to fill more than all the 18 black wooden boxes."

An official British Army spokesman said after an inspection of the burned club: "I saw bodies lying all over the place. It was a gruesome sight. They didn't resemble human beings. They were twisted, distorted, shapeless hulks."

The British military hospital spokesman estimated the total of dead would be 90 or more.

Dr Lobbin said 90 persons had been treated at Spandau Hospital for burns while others were taken to doctors' offices and other Berlin hospitals. Officials said the cause of the fire was the overheated furnace. The fire began at about 11 p.m.—United Press.

DEATH ESTIMATES RISE

Berlin, Feb. 9.
Rescue workers believe that more than 100 bodies are buried in the smoldering ruins of the big German dance hall.

At least four British soldiers are known to have lost their lives. More than 15 hours after the fire had been brought under control, rescue workers and British troops were removing bodies of victims. Many were charred beyond recognition. Most of them were jammed in the main front entrance to the building, where panic-stricken guests had fought to escape the racing flames, and added to the death toll.

Some rescue workers thought the death toll would reach 150. At

Good Rice Crop News

Washington, Feb. 10.
The Agriculture Department reported that the world's 1946-47 rice crop totalled about 7,100,000,000 bushels—an increase of about 11 per cent over the previous crop.

The largest production increase was in the Far East, where normally about 95 per cent of the world's output is grown.

The department said substantial increases in China, India and Japan should help to relieve food shortages in those countries.—Associated Press.

FIGHTING SEVERE IN INDO-CHINA

Hanoi, Feb. 9.

Bloody fighting on the north-western outskirts of Hanoi in which 200 Viet Namh troops were killed was reported by the Agence France Presse to-day.

French columns fanning out of Hanoi finally occupied the fort of Hoi Loc. The fort is on the cross-roads of the "forty of the four columns" on the right bank of the Red River. The fort is seven and one-half miles north-west of Hanoi.

According to the AFP, three French troops were killed and five others wounded. Annamite losses were given as 100 dead and 12 prisoners.

In the second operation in the village of Cobi, three and a half miles from the airfield of Giam, French troops, reinforced by artillery and armoured vehicles, finally managed to seize control of the village after bitter house-to-house fighting. The purpose of this operation was to enlarge the zone of French-dominated territory around Hanoi.

According to the AFP, Viet Namh forces lost about 100 men killed while 27 prisoners were taken by the French.

French patrols reported that the Annamites had been digging a system of trenches around the Sino-Annamite section of Hanoi where they have been resisting French attacks for the past two weeks.—United Press.

CORRESPONDENT KILLED

Hanoi, Feb. 9.
Michel Moutchehen, the American news agency correspondent in Hanoi, died yesterday from wounds received from Viet Namh machine-gun fire, according to French sources here.

The funeral will be held to-morrow in the presence of the French authorities at Hanoi.

Describing the circumstances of the correspondent's death, the AFP said he was accompanying a French armoured group on the road to Hai Duc Phu, north-west of Hanoi, and had reached Yenphu Phung, recently captured by the French.

Together with another journalist—a French correspondent of the newspaper L'epoque—Moutchehen was stepping forward to photograph the Viet Namh machine gun fire took the group by surprise. Moutchehen made a running leap for a roadside ditch but was laid out by a second burst of gunfire.

Moutchehen had arrived in Tonkin with the French troops in March 1946 and had followed nearly all the military operations. He had lost practically all his belongings in a fire caused by the Viet Namh attack of December 19.—Reuter.

STOP PRESS

SMALL FIRE IN CITY STORES

A small fire broke out at 0.15 this morning at the warehouse of Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co., Ltd. in Dei Vouou Road Central. The fire started from a small stock of kapok and some bamboo shavings materials used for making sofas.

Within four minutes two engines from the Central Fire Station were on the scene and put out the flames in a very short time. A police party under Inspector Smith, D.C., was also present to give assistance.

Except for damage to the kapok, other parts of the building in which there are many foreign and Chinese offices, were not affected at all. In their flight to extinguish the flames the firemen smashed through a large window at the back of the first floor and threw out kapok and bamboo shavings.

TROOPS ASSAILED BY IRON BARS, BOTTLES

Jewish Immigrants Attempt To Resist Detention

Jerusalem, Feb. 10.
A barrage of iron bars and bottles greeted British sailors attempting to board a two masted schooner carrying 620 would-be Palestine immigrants. One Jew was shot in the leg and several others hurt before the vessel was taken under control.

she issued the White Paper.—Associated Press.

TALKS WITH CUNNINGHAM

Jerusalem, Feb. 9.
Mrs Golda Meir, head of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency, discussed the Agency's reply to the British ultimatum—which expires to-morrow midnight—with the High Commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, for one hour to-day.

She was believed to have informed Gen. Cunningham that the Agency and the Jewish National Council—the two Jewish groups whom the Commissioner has demanded co-operation with the British in rounding up extremists—should not, could not and would not indulge in fratricidal war.

Palestine Government circles believed that Jewish rejection of Gen. Cunningham's ultimatum would lead to gradual imposition of full statutory martial law. They expected that the Jewish Agency's powers might be transferred to persons appointed by the High Commissioner when the Government decides upon a new political policy for Palestine.—United Press.

APPEAL TO GRUNER

New York, Feb. 9.
Mrs Helen Friedmann, sister of Dr. Gruner, the Jewish terrorist now under sentence of death in Jerusalem Central Prison, was due to leave here to-night in a Trans World Sky-master aircraft "Acropolis" for Palestine, where she hopes to persuade Gruner to appeal to the British Privy Council for his life.

Her plane is on the Bombay run and will stop at London, Newfoundland, Shannon, Paris, Rome, Athens, Cairo and Lydda airport where she will disembark. The flight time from New York to Lydda is about 38½ hours plus a minimum of seven hours for intermediate stops.—Reuter.

MacArthur Plan Attacked

Sydney, Feb. 9.
Mr B. J. McDonald, President of the Australian Legion for former servicemen, to-day attacked the Allied plan to make Japan self-supporting as outlined by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

McDonald said: "No military ear of a friendly power must force Australia to share in any plan to revive Japan—the fatal nation of the Pacific. Australia must pause before taking the blood-stained hand of Japan as a trade neighbour."

Gen. MacArthur's plea for wool to save Japan's mills from closing will not stir compassion in the hearts of any Australians, McDonald said, adding: "Japan's commerce must be permanently purged of its gangster tradition. If she were to trade with Australia we must first know whether we are creating another Frankenstein, and insure that she spends half a century compensating and building up faith in countries she wronged."—United Press.

ICKES CRITICAL

New York, Feb. 9.
Criticism what he termed the British disavowal of the Balfour declaration to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine, Harold L. Ickes proposed Saturday night that the United States should tell Britain that Jews "may go to Palestine, even if it is necessary to carry them there on American ships under the American flag."

The former U.S. Secretary of the Interior spoke in connection with a two-day conference on Hebrew liberation, sponsored by the American League for a free Palestine.

Ickes said that he favoured admitting to the United States Jewish refugees wishing to come here, but he declared that opening the gates here "would not thereby redeem the honour that Britain forfeited when

the censorship takes such a form that no correspondent dare assume that his message has ever left the country—although it has been paid for. Correspondents have to cope with an invisible censor who is never prepared to say what has been done with a dispatch or whether it has been transmitted in whole or in part or even at all."

A strong protest on the censorship reported by Campbell from Indo-China was lodged by Reuters with the French Government to-night.

Ho Chi-minh said that the Viet Namh would most probably appeal to the Big Four Foreign Ministers who were "most suited for the task. He was replying to a set of questions Campbell presented him on the politico-military situation in Indo-China and it was written in English and signed Ho Chi-minh."

He said the present conflict was "affecting very seriously" the economy of his country. French nationals in Viet Namh hands were much better treated than Viet Namh nationals in French hands, he declared.—Reuter.

Iron Curtain Of Censorship In Saigon

Singapore, Feb. 9.
The existence of what he describes as an "iron curtain of censorship" imposed by the French authorities in Saigon has forced Doon Campbell, Reuter's Special Correspondent to send an account of an important pronouncement by the Viet Namh Premier Ho Chi-minh by special courier to Reuter's Bureau here.

In a letter to Campbell from "somewhere near Hanoi" the Communist Premier of the Viet Namh, whose whereabouts are unknown to the French authorities, disclosed that the Viet Namh would appeal to the United Nations for arbitration if France cannot settle the present struggle by peaceful means.

Campbell, who was a war correspondent in Germany, Italy, Africa and Burma and has been in Palestine, Iran, India and China, states that never has a correspondent come up against such a brick wall of censorship as in Indo-China.

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COMING! "THRILL OF A ROMANCE"

POCKET CARTOON



The Road To Reno

By **Edward A. Olsen**

Reno, Nevada, which advertises itself to be the "biggest little city in the world" (population 30,000), the great crossroads of marriage and divorce, was the scene of activity in 1946 for 11,000 applicants for divorce and 60,000 for marriage, and in the opinion of legal experts here love's race will go on and on.

This human urge for getting together and getting apart gave Reno its busiest time in history last year and, looking ahead, District Judge A. J. Maceretti, who presides over one of the two busy divorce courts, says the divorce rate is apt to rush ahead for at least another 10 years. "A large proportion of the men who saw service have had a shock that has afflicted seriously their social equilibrium," Judge Maceretti said. "Many will develop nervous troubles as they grow older and will be more likely to give way to erratic impulses."

The judge said he believed young women, properly informed of what lies ahead of them, will have big influence in maintaining stable homes in the future.

WARTIME SEPARATION

Judge William McKnight, who presides over the other big divorce court, also foresees a continued high divorce rate. He blames wartime separation and unfaithfulness for the situation.

Attorney Samuel Platt says war and inflation have brought about in America a "reckless disregard for the seriousness of the marital relations." This, he says, will continue "until a different pattern towards marriage develops."

Attorney Robb Clarke, who estimates he handled at least 500 divorce cases during 1946, thinks 1947 will bring an even greater number. Other attorneys said they handled many divorces during the year for war brides, both American and foreign, who married in the first place only for personal gain.

A LUXURY

Some foreign women, they said, married American servicemen only to gain entry into America, and when that goal was attained, promptly went to Reno. A minority of the American war brides broke off their marriages to servicemen, the possibility of collecting the government allotment or insurance payments had ended.

In terms of money, the 1946 divorces and marriages brought something like \$10,000,000 to the city's attorneys and businessmen.

"Divorce, like jewellery, is a luxury. People have been willing to pay tremendous prices for everything," said the previous record divorce year was 1945 when 8,500 decrees were granted. The previous big marriage year was 1942, when 26,039 couples obtained licences. Associated Press.

Rupert and Ninky-31



The little scout sees that Rupert is still mystified, so he goes on explaining. "I belong to Santa Claus," he says, "and he sends me scouting for new toys which children may like at Christmas." But Christmas is all over," cries Rupert. "Oh, I mean next Christmas," says the scout. "We have to work a long way in advance. I took your Ninky to him, and he can't make head or tail of him. I wish you'd come and show him the donkey works." And he invites Rupert to enter the plane. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

NANCY Make Up Your Mind!



"JEEPAGIRLS" TYPIFY JAPAN'S MORAL DECAY

By **RICHARD HUGHES**

I DISCOVER that I have been slow and reluctant to accept the depth, blackness, and despair of the decline in morality and integrity inside Japan since the surrender.

Bolshevism may be, as somebody said, a disease of defeated nations.

But decay in ethical values is a far more exact measure of national defeat and degradation than any search for desperate political remedies can ever be.

Evidence of this spiritual deterioration has a naturally a slower impact on the observer than Hiroshima's ashes of horror or Tokyo's square miles of gutted ruins.

But the reaction is all the stronger because it has been delayed and the sense of shock is more frightening because it has been inescapably resisted.

Materially, Japan is prostrate but not broken.

Militarily, her arsenal is being reduced to martial memories and war statues.

Industrially, Japan is still the potential leader of the Orient.

Her powerless rulers cannot begin officially to plan for the new atomic age until after reparations and peace terms have been determined.

But they know they can still command the technical skill, knowledge, experience, labour, and national spirit of discipline and patience, of which no peace treaty can deprive them.

Broken, Bleeding

MORALLY, however, Japan is broken, bleeding, and largely unashamed. Honicide, crime, and vice have soared since the occupation.

Theft, which was unknown before the war, is rampant. A vicious black market is openly and freely supported by all sections of the community.

Government officials, claiming wage increases, protest seriously that present wages are inadequate for them to use the black market. Begging, which was proscribed, is organised on Shanghai and Cairo lines, with gangs of homeless, barefoot war orphans acting as operators.

Prostitution, which was restricted and supervised has become an unbridled menace.

Tokyo's parks, streets, and railway stations swarm with what the Japanese call "angles of the night"—teen-age "jeepagirls."

The "jeepagirls" also include war widows and young and elderly wives of Japanese unemployed.

Immorality, which was rare amongst Japanese women before the war, is now a fashionable indulgence, shrugged off as another

manifestation of the incomprehensible Western cult of democracy and feminine emancipation.

Just as the Japanese, in a late conversion, attempted enthusiastically to recover their lost behind the West in the practice of the blessed virtues of Imperialism, so they are now belatedly but vigorously absorbing the culture and philosophy of Hollywood.

The consequences of this second conversion may well be as profound and as far reaching as were the effects of the first conversion.

Theologians may debate the moral issues involved.

Hospitals, prophylactic stations, and vice squads may pre-occupy themselves with social and health hazards.

But the detached observer must recognise this collapse and surrender of ethical standards as a most accurate measure and reflection of the collapse and surrender of the Japanese people.

Divorced 83 Times

EVEN the cynic must deplore the gross offences against taste and tradition in the public parks and gardens.

Before the war a moonlight stroll beside the moat, through the Palace plaza, or other lovely Tokyo parks was an aesthetic delight.

Canoeing, with coloured lanterns, drifted on waterily ponds to the tinkling sing-song harmony of samisen and soft voices, while dimmed girls walked demurely beside their proud escorts, sometimes timidly holding their hands.

HOW TO LIVE TO A RIPE OLD AGE

By **SAUL PETT**

BIOLOGICALLY, a man is said to do 90 percent of his growing before birth, another nine percent before he is 20, and one percent the entire remainder of his life.

It is this one percent, or perhaps a fraction of it, that remains one of the comparatively great mysteries of modern science—a void in man's knowledge which only now, with the end of wartime distractions, is bringing intensified studies into the real causes of longevity.

Many persons, especially old ones, have theories about longevity. At 107, a woman in midwestern United States attributed her long life to wearing two petticoats. A South African, who said he was 116, gave the formula: hay, corn and plenty of fresh air. In New England, a woman said she lived to 105 because of smoking her pipe.

The old people are more positive than scientists. Science has no certain set of rules and regulations. Conclusive statements about the cause of longevity require conclusive evidence. Such proof is largely lacking, primarily because the problem needs controlled experiments with humans over long periods of time.

But there are theories. Eugenists emphasise inheritance. Sociologists and many physicians favour environment. Nutrition experts call attention to diet, and psychologists emphasise mental outlook.

Adding up all the viewpoints, a person seeking advice on how to live long might get this composite set of hints of varying value:

1. It would help if a person could choose his parents. Insurance company statistics show that where the parents and grandparents lived long, the children also tend to enjoy longevity.
2. Another benefit would be to avoid many of the childhood ailments, especially those like rheumatic fever which may leave their mark in later life.
3. Also, one should try not to belong to a low social-economic group. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company reports a study made in 10 American states among male workers ranging from 15 to 64. The study showed that seven out of 1,000 professional men could be expected to die within a year. The mortality rate in the lowest group was almost double that of the highest.
4. One should live moderately in all things—work, play, eating, drinking, smoking and especially worrying.

The human heart has enough to do without its owner adding to its work. For example, even while its owner is resting, the average normal heart pumps 11 to 22 pounds of blood per minute, according to Dr. Edward J. Stieglitz, formerly attached to the U.S. Health Service.

5. One should not remain bored for too long and should try to laugh a lot. The late Dr. Alexander A. Bokomolev of Russia endorsed the findings of an earlier physiologist, Christoph Hufeland:

"Fear is a continuous spasm. It contracts all the capillaries. Fear brings about all the symptoms of a slow-acting deadly poison and, consequently, tends to shorten life. The bored man begins to yawn. This shows that the blood's passage through the lungs is encumbered."

"Not a single old man ever reached old age. Old age is reached only by those who lead a busy life."

"Of all man's functions that affect body and soul together, laughter is the healthiest. Laughter aids digestion, circulation, sweating and has a

refreshing effect on the strength of all the organs."

6. One should neither overeat, nor get overweight. Experiments with rats show that where the diet was controlled rats lived much longer than their brethren who were allowed to eat as much as they liked.

Insurance studies indicate that the weight range for people at 25 is the desirable one to maintain in later life. In his book, "The Second Forty Years," Dr. Stieglitz says that of 10 fat men at 30, six will survive to 60, three to 70 and perhaps one to 80. Of 10 lean men, he said, eight will reach 60, five will reach 70 and three will live to 80.

From an overall health point of view, he says, if health can be conserved from the years before 30, the likelihood of long disability and uselessness from chronic illness after that will be small.

Despite comparative ignorance of the real, positive causes of longevity, people are living longer. In the Roman Empire, the average life expectancy was 23 years. In 1900 in the United States, it was 47. Now it is almost 65.—Associated Press.

According To Culbertson

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To-day's deal was the source of quite an argument when it was played in a prominent New York club. South, dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ Q 10 9 3		♠ A K J 7 6 4	
♥ A 5 4 2		♥ J 9 8	
♦ A 10 6 2		♦ 3	
♣ 8		♣ 10 7 2	

WEST

♠ 6 3 2		♠ A K J 7 6 4	
♥ K Q 8 7 3		♥ J 9 8	
♦ Q 5		♦ 3	
♣ A 6 4		♣ 10 7 2	

SOUTH

♠ 10		♠ K J 9 8 7 4	
♥ 10		♥ K J 9 8 7 4	
♦ K J 9 8 7 4		♦ K J 9 8 7 4	
♣ K J 9 8 7 4		♣ K J 9 8 7 4	

This was the actual bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 diamonds	2 spades	3 diamonds	Pass
Pass	4 spades	5 diamonds	Pass
Pass	6 spades	7 diamonds	Pass
Pass	8 spades	9 diamonds	Pass
Pass	10 spades	11 diamonds	Pass
Pass	12 spades	13 diamonds	Pass

The five spade contract was defeated three tricks, but the 500 points North-South received was not very good compensation for the cold small slam they had missed!

As was only to be expected, South criticised North strongly for his re-

double, pointing out that a meek pass to West's double would have given North-South the game and rubber, as well as extra points for contract and an overtrick. In this criticism South was joined by most of the large and voluble gallery.

North had a different idea about the guilt in the matter. His argument was that he had had no reason to fear that a redoubtable five diamonds would be taken out—that with his distribution, indeed, he was quite willing for the enemy to run to five spades. "After all," he said, "I could hardly tell that we could make six diamonds after you passed originally, and from my point of view we might get 700 points against five spades, which would be all right with me."

There is not much doubt that North was right, and that it was South who could be almost certain that six diamonds were in the cards for his own side, considering North's bidding. What could North have to justify his redoubtable, after his raise, except aces? Even if he had the spade ace, matching South's void, the most unlikely chance—the enemy might open spades and give South a heart discard. With his 6-6-1-1 distribution South should have persisted to six diamonds, in full expectation of making it.

Now, 12 months after the surrender, the sights in Tokyo parks would huddle the toughest vice squad.

This public transformation is reflected not only in the behaviour of US soldiers with Japanese girls.

Japanese youths, eager to ape any aspect of this irresistible Western force of democracy, are quickly following suit.

The Japanese "jeepagirls" can rationalise her new-found freedom in terms of democratic "sex equality" as easily as she has exchanged her fan for chewing gum and her one-time formal bow for public petting.

Japanese film magazines are reporting with quiet pride that their two favourite screen stars, Shin Morioka and Mitsuko Mito, who were recently married, are already separated.

They also report that famed Isuzu Yamada has her eyes on a fourth husband.

The Tokyo Times, citing by US anticipation of another wedding for playboy millionaire Tommy Manville, delved into the past and dug up painter Kunitchika Toyohara, 1887-1900, and loftily presented him as the holder of a world's record with 83 divorces.

"When Toyohara was once asked how many times he had been married, he said he had forgotten," the Times writer reported with simple truth.

Not all American soldiers have devoted themselves to fraternisation—that sweet Army term—with equal gusto and impartiality.

Hundreds of them now have their wives and families with them. The buying queue on Fridays and Saturdays at the official Tokyo Commissary resembles shopping scenes in mid-west American towns.

Debased By War

BUT an ardent section, with that open-handed promiscuity which has marked the American march from Cairo to Berlin and from Brisbane to Tokyo, undoubtedly has made the most of the breakdown of morality in Japan.

Unfortunately, the excesses of this section are plain to see, while the restraint of others is overlooked.

I have discussed this social problem with intelligent, sophisticated Japanese, who agree that moral and ethical standards had begun to decay and crumble in deeper and deeper before the occupation troops arrived.

The decline had started, even if the occupation troops have since accelerated it.

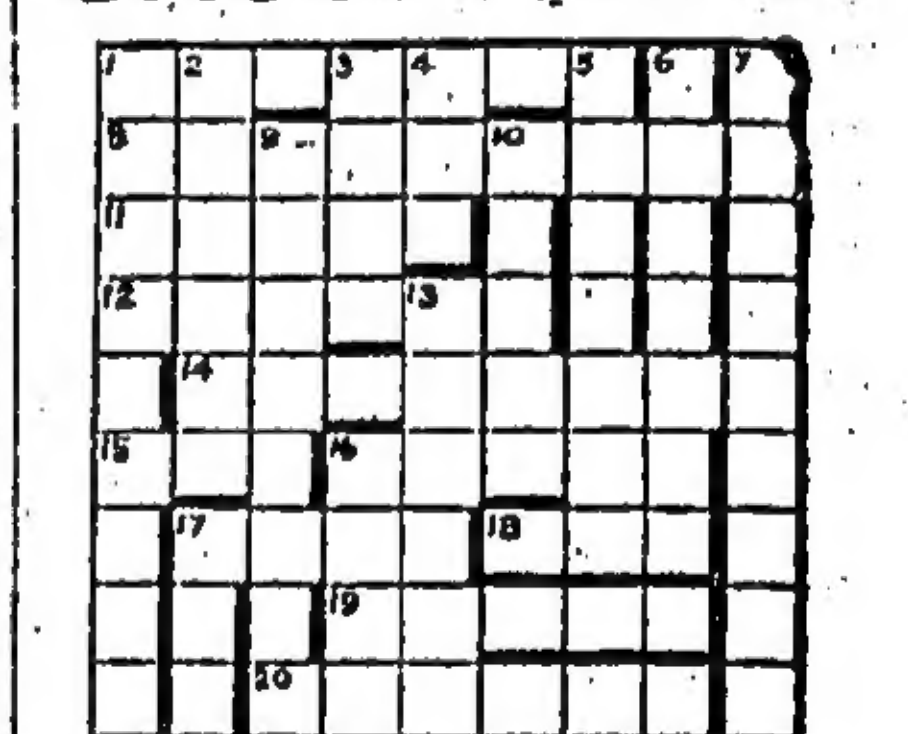
"Our collapse and surrender was a spiritual degradation which few Westerners can understand," said an old professor friend of mine, who retains his serene detachment, despite the loss of his wife, two daughters, home, and classical library in the last incendiary raid.

"We had been debased by war, Most of us did not believe the atrocious stories. I can still hardly believe them, despite the conclusive proof."

"Few of us realised the war was lost until our battle fleet was destroyed at Leyte (Philippines)."

The shock was too sudden and unexpected. Our moral fibre was too weak. We could not stand erect in defeat.

CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 and 6. His job is to brighten up your outlook (6, 7)
 2. The bride anticipates her last hand third finger being this (6)
 3. Love in a nut-shell (5)
 4. In real time up (6)
 5. Exhibiting vitality (6)
 6. Over-mum (5)
 7. Disorderly mix up (6)
 8. Light of possession (6)
 9. Slip up (5)
 10. Tails (5)
 11. Power (6)
- Down
1. The possessor of more riches (6)
 2. His is and to more (or colour) (6)
 3. Calamitous (4)
 4. Feature with rest (3)
 5. See 1 across
 6. Carries more weight (7)
 7. Including the nation (6)
 8. Endeavouring (6)
 9. The ornament of many a tree (6)
 10. Get your own back (6)
 11. May be miserly or just average (6)
 12. Cover (5)

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Women BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



By LOIS LEEDS

Posed by Signe Hasso for Lois Leeds.

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STAR SHINE!

Signe Hasso, in Paramount Pictures, wears a most interesting bang, with a fluff of curls around her face. And she wears brilliant earrings for a high-light. Signe's slender face is flattered by the deep bang and the fluff of curls. If yours is the slender face, please copy!

Putting on the Dog! Hilary Brooke's nimble fingers hand-tooled her own leather shoes and bag in soft.

SPRING NOTES FROM PARIS

By Dorothy Russell

Paris.—The second display of Paris spring fashions revealed that coats and dresses will be longer and evening gowns shorter.

Almost all evening gowns in the new collections came just above the knee, instead of below, the ankle and most were bunched up in front to show three or four inches of the leg.

Designers used strange new fabrics and designs and a new selection of spring colours. By contrast, the collection concentrated on black and navies.

One of the most startling creations was an indigo tulle evening gown with swooping sleeves made almost exactly like a priest's surplice. It was worn over a brilliant cardinal red dress of satinette, pencil slim, with a gathered sash draped over one hip and coming up to join at the waist.

Another beautiful gown was an Elizabethan-skirted creation of white linen which had a pattern of white flowers in relief all over it. Worn with a bolero encrusted with sprays of green that seemed almost to blossom, it gave a sumptuous effect.

Schlaparelli let herself go in a whirl of colours and designs. She used new brush stroke material in striking El Greco tones, ranging from glowing amber crimsons to sunset oranges, with stormy blues and purples. She used sharp, extravagant contrasts—apple green top on a crushed raspberries-and-cream skirt, electric blue rayon scattered with red, yellow and green butterflies, and bluebirds winging across a cream dress with spring green trees.

Tweeds were almost all brown, coffee, oatmeal or dull yellow.—United Press.

Brown calfskin, from an original design of her own. When she wears these accessories to her sports garb, she is also accompanied by some more of her handiwork, pacing alongside of her. A matching hand-tooled collar circles the neck of her police dog.

Star-ring! Hollywood stars can be seen around Manhattan these crisp days looking the way you think that screen stars should look!

Claire Trevor, having completed her role in RKO-Radio picture, "Dandier Than the Male," is one of the most smartly dressed girls on the coast, or in New York, either. One of the knockout costumes that she wears consists of a Gray wool-crepe tailored frock, with a Brown beaver hat and muff. This Gray and Brown combination is one of the loveliest blendings of neutral colours.

Old and New! One of the most exciting accessories is the old-fashioned watch, worn pinned on suit lapels or at the belts of slacks, simple wool dresses. Turn back Time and hunt out Grandmothers old watch. If you have an enamelled one, so much the better—and so much the smarter!

Lovely! The deep Blue-Reds in lipstick and nail enamel are loveliest with the new clothes. Use a tiny bit more of rouge and eye makeup than you did last season. This is the lovely Lady season.

Minute Makeups
by GABRIELLE



Now you can travel, so be sure to have a well-stocked travel kit. New ones are appearing on the counters and you should invest. Nothing is so maddening as trying to pack Beauty Aids in your big suitcase!

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"My wife rolls one of the fastest balls on the alley, but I have to run the vacuum at home—she says it strains her back!"

Nisei Hard Hit by Postwar Economy

Anti-Japanese feeling in the United States is to-day—five years after Pearl Harbour—less than it ever has been despite a war which cost hundreds of thousands of American lives.

Racial hatred paled before the amazing war record of Japanese-American soldiers and vanished almost entirely with victory. But the 120,000 Japanese-Americans in the United States have a hard struggle to fit themselves into United States postwar economy, says Reuter.

The pattern of life by which the Japanese immigrants of 40 years ago created a prosperous community in California has been completely destroyed, and economic possibilities for the Nisei—as American-born Japanese are known—are at a low ebb.

"Economically we have been set back 40 years—right to the point where our fathers and grandfathers were when they came here," declares Scotty H. Tsuchiya, shrewd, cigar-chewing regional director of the influential Japanese-American Citizens' League who, except for his Japanese features, is a typical American executive.

Los Angeles' "Little Tokyo," where before the war 30,000 Japanese-Americans formed a city within a city, is no more. According to Tsuchiya, a bare one-third of California Nisei population have returned to stay, and they are finding the going hard.

Before the war they were primarily small businessmen. To-day few have sufficient capital left to buy the brokerage, importing, fishing and landscaping enterprises they sold in 1941 at a fraction of their real value.

Young Nisei Worst Hit

The worst hit group is the young Nisei—those in their early twenties. The United States Employment Service reports that they have more requests for jobs than they can fill. The Farm Labour Bureau has a constant demand for Nisei labourers. The difficulty is that these young Nisei are, for the most part, educated, aggressive people with special training ill-suited for common labour.

Joe Watanabe, 24, is typical. He has a college degree in agriculture and is an expert draftsman. His father's "business" is a small farm which his agricultural training would have been invaluable, was lost when the family was interned. Now Joe is vainly trying to find a drafting job in an area where hundreds of war-trained white draftsmen are available. Needless to say, Nisei are second choice.

Move Eastward

Facing this situation, hundreds of Nisei have left southern California after short post-internment visits, to settle elsewhere. Until recently, the U. S. Government's War Relocation Service assisted many in settling in the mid-west, and on large States, and small Japanese-American communities have sprung up in areas where Japanese had never been before. The Japanese-American Citizens' League reports that, generally, they have fared better the further they travelled east.

The Nisei in California are far from downhearted. They have taken the same attitude that they took to their wartime internment.

"Sure, things are tough for us, but a lot of other people are worse off."

They are encouraged by the new friendliness they find among the whites, and the disappearance of suspicion and distrust. The defeat of a measure of the November elections' ballot "to validate the Alien Land Law" under which their Japanese-born parents and grandparents were prohibited from owning land, was a great boost to their morale.

Evacuation Was Unjust

Their co-operative attitude during internment built up a large reservoir of goodwill for the Nisei, particularly in official circles, and many influential men are working to better conditions for them. Arthur Wood, Southern California Director of the United States Employment Service, who managed the 1941-1942 evacuation, said:

"The outstanding thing in my memory is that the evacuation was an unfortunate thing that never should have been done in the first place. I feel like apologizing sometimes to my many Nisei friends for the injustice that was done them."

One young Nisei except for his features as American as Mickey Rooney, expressed his feelings this way:

"My father was an ignorant Japanese peasant when he came here in 1914. He worked harder than the next guy and managed to send his five kids to college. I won't be satisfied with any less success than he had, and I'll get it the same way... by working harder than the next guy."

RAF ESCAPING SOCIETY

An RAF Escaping Society has been formed with Marshal of the Royal Air Force the Viscount Portal of Hungerford as President. It fosters the friendships formed between RAF, Dominion and Allied Air Forces personnel who escaped from enemy and enemy-occupied Europe and those who helped them on their journeys home.

There will be annual reunions through an organised interchange of visits and the helpers will be privately entertained in Britain by the escapers.

CHANCE FOR DP'S IN VENEZUELA

Venezuela has large supplies of petroleum, but does not grow enough food, so it is offering to displaced persons of Europe an opportunity to become independent farmers.

The Venezuelan Government is principally interested in immigration of Italian farmers.

Earlier, some European refugees who came to Caracas supposedly as farmers usually stayed in the cities and opened shops. The Venezuelans say they now have enough shops selling foreign-made goods. What they want is more farms, and they believe Italians will remain on farms.

The government's purpose is to make Venezuela self-sufficient.

To accomplish this, it is offering displaced persons land at low prices and mechanical equipment on credit.

Increased agriculture will increase the dietary standard and perhaps result in lower prices for food which now must be imported.

Settlement projects now under way envisage the establishment of approximately 8,000 families on 500,000 acres of land at a cost of 30,000,000 bolivars.

The government believes these projects must precede future industrialisation.—Associated Press.

Nimitz Invited To Australia

Fleet-Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, C-in-C of all Allied naval forces in the Pacific during the war against Japan, has been invited to visit Australia.

US Ambassador to Australia (Mr Robert Butler) revealed this in Melbourne.

The Deputy Prime Minister (Dr Ewart) had suggested the visit in a private chat in Canberra, Mr Butler said.

"It was a splendid idea, and I immediately sent the invitation to Admiral Nimitz," he went on.

Mr Butler has high hopes of cementing the good Australian-American relations established during the war by arranging such visits, and by the cultural, and perhaps military, exchange of students.

He feels that military students from Duntroon could go to West Point, and naval students from Flinders could exchange with Americans from Annapolis.

At their last meeting, Mr Butler revealed, Admiral Nimitz said his one desire was to go to Sydney again.

Prospects For Spring Double

Prospects for this year's Spring Double—the Lincolnshire Handicap, which opens the flat racing season, and the Grand National, world-famous steeplechase in March—are already being weighed by followers of the Sport of Kings in Britain.

Last year's Grand National winner, Lovely Cottage has been mentioned but more interest is taken in the Yorkshire-trained stayer who in the "Stayers" Handicap "Chase at Cheltenham recently made a mistake, jumped magnificently and won by four lengths.

For the Lincolnshire Handicap the northern grey, Toronto, has been mentioned. Among the 91 entries for this race he is outstanding in his record of genuine running and consistency. Last season he won three out of eight races, finishing third to Sayani and Claro in the Cambridgehire.

The French entries Roi D'Atout, who has not run in Britain before, Yatsi and Real, also must be considered in any forecast of the eventual winner, the last-named being fancied most in Britain because of his classical form last season.

Mr. Ramshaw Is Televised

An eighteen-year-old golden eagle has been visiting the television studios of the British Broadcasting Corporation. He is "Mr Ramshaw", owned and trained by Captain C. W. R. Knight.

"Mr Ramshaw" and owner nearly parted company forever during the war. Their ship, the Volendam, was torpedoed on the voyage home from India, and when the order came to abandon ship the eagle was missing. Captain Knight was picked up by a destroyer and returned to Britain mourning the loss of his old friend.

But the Volendam did not sink; she was towed to Glasgow, and when Captain Knight met the ship in dock, "Mr Ramshaw" was on board, extremely well but ravaged by hunger. "Mr Ramshaw" prefers television in the open air, but can manage a few flying hops in the studio.

RELIEVING PAINS OF CHILDBIRTH

Russian scientists have informed their British colleagues of an apparent new advance in the never-ending quest for painless childbirth.

Although the Russians cautioned against drawing any "final conclusions" from their continuing experiments, the communication from the Central Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology added:

The Soviet technique is to administer vitamin B1 during actual childbirth, beginning with labour, says United Press.

"Three methods of introducing the vitamin were tried—intravenous injections, intramuscular injections and doses administered through the mouth," the report declared.

"The intravenous injections had the quickest effect but proved of short duration so the doctors abandoned this method. At present the usual procedure is to begin with an intramuscular injection, followed, if the pains recur, either by another smaller injection or by doses through the mouth at an interval of half an hour.

"Relief from pain was felt within 10 to 15 minutes of the first injection. In nearly half the test cases, the pains were relieved during the whole process of birth. In 51.2 percent of the cases there was a prolonged alleviation of pain.

The scientists reported that not only were there no harmful after-effects, but that introduction of the vitamin actually speeded up delivery by half.

Russians To Overhaul Their Broadcasting

A complete overhaul of the Soviet broadcasting system is foreshadowed in "Culture and Life," organ of the Central Performance. Bad transmission is among the charges levelled at the Soviet radio network in the decree of the Central Committee on which "Culture and Life" comments in its leading article, reports Reuter.

In an accompanying article, Mr. M. A. Puzin, Chairman of the Government Radio Committee, promises improvements.

The criticisms, in spite of ideological differences, sound remarkably like those which have been made at various times of British and United States broadcasting.

The musical programmes are described as monotonous, scripts as dry and unexpressive, and the presentation of folk songs and regional culture as weak.

One of the most serious criticisms concerns the political broadcasts, in which the information given concerning life in the Soviet Union is denounced as monotonous and badly phrased. Insufficient publicity, it is stated, is given to the experiences of leading workers in factories and on collective farms.

No Drastic Departure

From the leading article and Puzin's article, it is apparent that the overhaul will not mean any drastic departure, but will proceed strictly along practical and ideological lines.

The most important short-term task, the Committee's decree declares, is to raise the significance of broadcasting in political, education and improvement of the cultural level of workers.

The decree sharply reproves the Radio Committee for bypassing villages and concentrating on regional centres.

"Our country is the fatherland of radio—one of the greatest conquests of modern science," the magazine says. "Broadcasting in the Soviet Union serves the interests of the whole people, unlike capitalist countries where it subordinates its activity to the interests of the ruling classes and uses cheap, sensational methods."

DUMB BELLS



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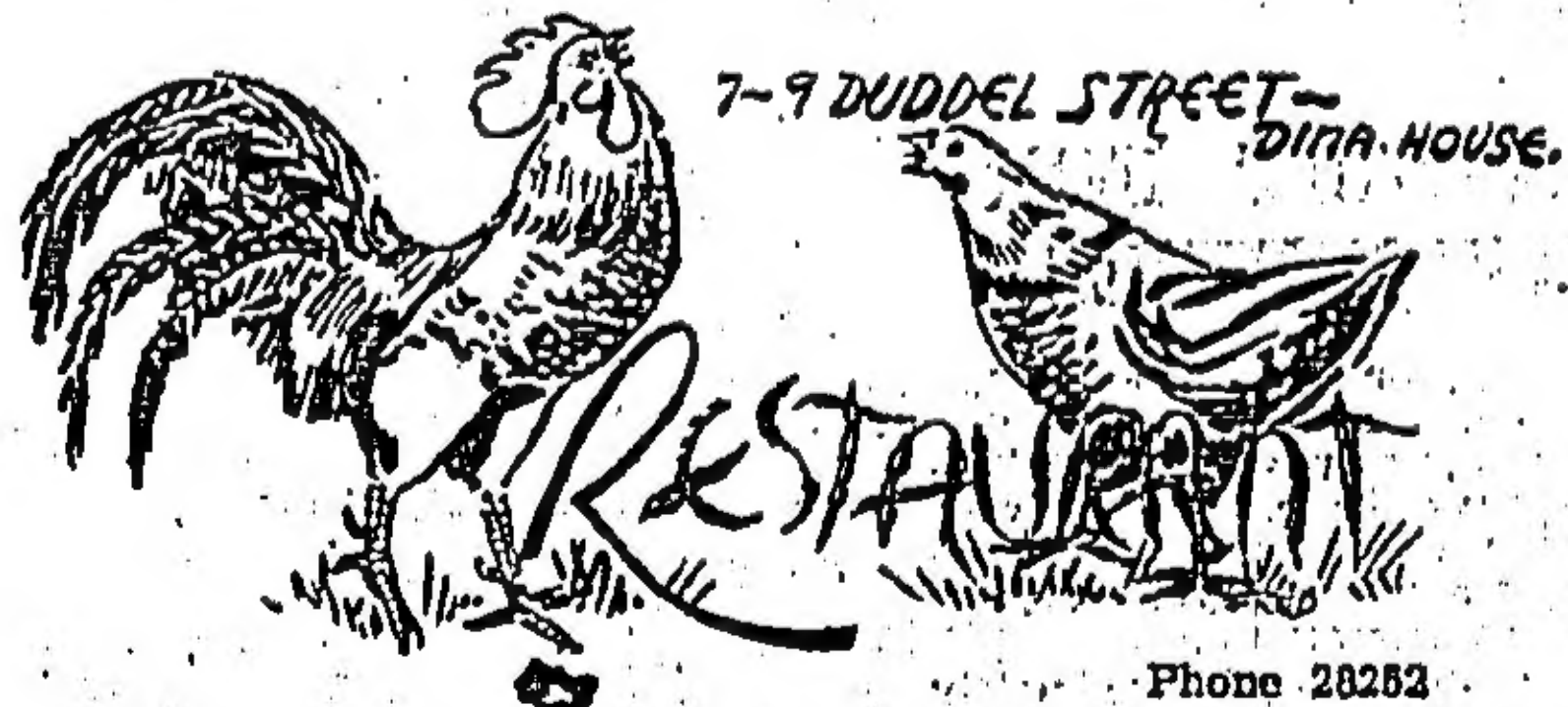
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"BLACK SWAN"

with Thomas MITCHELL • George SANDERS
A 20th Century-Fox Picture

DINE AT



Quetta Cataract Season Near

A prominent Kansas eye specialist is flying half way around the world to perform nearly 500 eye operations within six weeks. Instead of being paid for his services, he will pay a tuition fee for the experience. Dr Byron J. Ashley is heading for Quetta, India, for the "cataract season." During this period he will operate on natives who stream in from all parts to the Central Missionary Hospital in Quetta.

The Kansas eye disease specialist was approved for the job by Sir

FILM CZAR TO SELL STABLE

Movie magnate Louis B. Mayer has announced that he would sell his huge racing stable in public auction on February 27.

With such name horses as Basher, Honeycomb and Be Faithful slated to go on the block, the auction will be held at Santa Anita Park, California. Mayer disclosed he intended to retire from the turf because of pressing movie-making responsibilities. The Mayer stock includes 40 two-year-olds, six stallions, 75 brood mares and 62 horses of various ages.—Associated Press.

Henry Holland, the hospital director, Dr Ashley, who served in the Navy during the last war, said it was not known definitely why the Indians had so many cataracts, but it probably was the result of climate, diet and heredity.—United Press.

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